

300003

Stuart Hill

05/12/2003 08:03 AM

To: Gwendolyn Massenburg  
Subject: Himco Dump Superfund Site

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



216819

Another Himco comment:

..... Forwarded by Stuart Hill/R5/USEPA/US on 05/12/03 08:03 AM .....



05/11/03 09:41 PM

To: Stuart Hill cc: dstrahm  
Subject: Himco Dump Superfund Site

Mr. Hill,

Regarding our correspondence of April 24, 2003 pursuant to the Himco Dump Superfund Site of Elkhart, Indiana, please consider the following text as my "formal statement".

I am an owner of one of the six County Road 10 residences that directly borders the Himco Dump site property to the south, including a small portion of the "Construction Debris Area" (according to the 1991 RF/FS plan view map). I have lived there since January 1997. I have the following concerns regarding the new 2003 cleanup plan for the Himco Dump Superfund Site:

1. I want to be personally consulted regarding any of the clean-up options for the property that I own.
2. The southern edge of the landfill has naturally developed into a nice wooded area. I do not wish to have the trees all bulldozed-over just to be left with a barren, grassy field. I would prefer that the all the trees located on the landfill property remain in place as new soil is brought to the site as the trees provide a great wind and noise barrier, as well as a "natural" look that is more eye-pleasing than the "big mound of dirt" typical of other landfill sites. If the trees must all be removed, I would like to see that new trees be planted once the excavation/cap effort is complete.
3. While other Hazardous Waste Landfills (i.e.: Monticello, Utah) and common Municipal Waste Landfills (i.e.: McPherson, Kansas) are capped with over 6 feet of various soil/sand and sometimes even clay, I am concerned that the Himco site is only going to be covered with an additional 30" of soil. Why is such a shallow cap being installed?

Dan Strahm

Elkhart, Indiana  
46514

First, let me say that I am amazed that the EPA has never mailed me anything regarding the Himco site.

I am an owner of one of the six County Road 10 residences that directly borders the Himco site property to the south. I have lived there since January 1997. I have allowed soil samples to be taken from my property in the past, and **I would like to be included on the mailing list for this project.** My address is:

Dan Strahm

Elkhart, Indiana  
46514

My parcel was previously owned by James and Christine Klein. I have read a good portion of the background of this site (since purchasing my home), and according to the 1991 RF/FS plan view map prepared by Lang, Feeney, and Associates, Inc; The area referred to as the "Construction Debris Area" includes a portion of my property.

Your April 2003 newsletter, that a friend gave to me yesterday, indicates that **you intend to remove the soil in the debris area. How is this going to affect my specific property? Will the soil on my property be excavated and replaced? Do I have any say in this excavation matter regarding my actual property?** The northernmost portion of my 1 acre property is heavily wooded, and even though I understand the need to clean any contamination from the soil, I do not wish to have my trees all bulldozed-over just to be left with a barren, useless, grassy field. In fact, I would prefer that all the trees located on the landfill property remain in place as new soil is brought to the site as the trees provide a great wind and noise barrier, as well as a "natural" look that is more eye-pleasing than the "big mound of dirt" typical of other landfill sites.

I regret that I was unable to attend the meeting last night, as I did not find out about it until the 5 o'clock news yesterday. Again, please include me in all your future mailings.

A written reply to my questions would be appreciated.

Let me know if I can be of any further help with this project.

Thank you, and have a good day.

DAN STRAHM

**Stuart Hill**

04/24/2003 10:35 AM

To: Dan Strahm  
Subject: Re: Himco superfund site - Elkhart, IN

Mr. Strahm:

Thanks for your comments. Steps will be taken by informing others via copy of this message to add your household to our mailing list. While I can offer a personal apology for not having your name on the list at this time, you may find some comfort in the fact that EPA has made only one mass mailing to the Elkhart area since you purchased the property, and that was recently.

With regard to your questions regarding the potential cleanup of property you own, let me offer these general comments:

- 1) private property owners are usually directly consulted by project managers prior to any removal or cleanup action. Concerns and issues of the owner are addressed individually. All options are usually explored with the individual retaining a high degree of autonomy in decisions.
- 2) frequently, EPA is charged with returning cleaned property to as exact conditions as possible; however, there may be extenuating circumstances, such as the need to prevent anything from placed on top of the surface. (This is not to say that this condition exists on your property.)
- 3) It does suggest that there are many variables involved and that most will be considered with your interest in mind.
- 4) But we should keep in mind that EPA is in the first stages of the process of cleaning the Himco area and quite some time may need to transpire before someone asks to sit at your kitchen table and discuss the best ways to clean your property and maintain the lifestyle you have achieved.

I ask the project manager, also by copy of this message, to make any appropriate additional comments.

Also, I would like to point out that a public comment period on this entire proposal is in effect until May 12 and you are welcome comment formally. If you care to put your concern for cleanup of the construction debris area, including the issue of preserving natural surroundings, into a statement and return it to me, it will become a formal comment and part of the official record. As such it will have to be addressed by the EPA as a matter of public record.

I regret you can not be given specifics at this time, but hope this message will give some indication of future EPA intentions. Should you wish to discuss further, I can be reached at 312 886-0689, or I can find another individual to more fully address your concerns.

Thanks again for your time.  
Dan Strahm



**Dan Strahm**

04/24/03 09:52 AM

To: Stuart Hill cc: danrace  
Subject: Himco superfund site - Elkhart, IN

Mr. Hill,